Climatological Data for May, 1910.

DISTRICT No. 10, GREAT BASIN.

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GENERAL CLIMATOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

The weather throughout the Great Basin for the month of May, 1910, was very similar to that of March and April, especially regarding temperature and precipitation. Generally clear, sunshiny weather prevailed with temperatures averaging much above normal, and precipitation much below normal. All vegetation showed the effects of the excess in temperature and the deficiency of rain.

In that portion of Utah lying in the district, the mean temperature was the highest on record, excepting May, 1897, 1900, and 1901. This statement is also applicable, in a large measure, to the remainder of the district.

TEMPERATURE.

The temperature for the district as a whole averaged almost 57°, which is about 3° above the normal. The mean temperature ranged from 45.8°, at Dutton in northern Nevada, to 73.3°, at Jean in southern Nevada. Of the long record stations only 3 reported temperatures below the normal. The greatest daily excess of temperature, 6.5°, occurred at Burns and Silver Lake, Oreg.; while the greatest deficiency, 1.7°, occurred at Tecoma, Nev. The highest mean temperature occurred in the valleys of Utah, the lake region, and southern portion of Nevada. The lowest means were confined, of course, to the more elevated portions of the district.

The first few days of the month were comparatively cool, but the temperatures gradually rose and the weather continued warm for the remainder of the first half of the month. Temperatures fell, as a rule, on the 15th, but remained below normal for only a few days. The last decade of May was the warmest period of the month and culminated in very hot weather on the 30th and 31st.

The highest temperature was 112° at Jean on the 31st. Other high temperatures were 103° at Richfield and Fillmore, Utah, on the 31st; 102° at Stone, Idaho, Battle Mountain, Carlin, Fallon, and Mina, Nev., on the 31st; 101° at Provo, Utah, on the 30th; Cobre and McAfee's Ranch, Nev., on the 31st; and 100° at Oak City, Utah, and Fernley, Nev., on the 30th; while maximum temperatures of 90° and over were reported at most of the other stations in the district.

The only generally cool periods extended from the 1st to the 5th, and from the 15th to the 17th, during which periods the lowest temperatures were, for the most part, recorded. The lowest for the district was 11°, observed at Potts, Nev., on the 15th. During the first cool spell scattered frosts occurred, doing some damage in Nevada. Frosts during the middle of the month were quite severe, but resulted in little damage.

Precipitation is usually quite heavy in May compared with other months; but during the current month there were only 2 rainy days on the average, and the precipitation for the district averaged only 0.41 inch, which is 0.84 inch below the normal. The largest monthly amounts fell in the central portion of Utah, while none occurred at many stations in Nevada. The greatest rainfall for the month at any station was 2.45 inches, observed at Corinne, Utah, all of which fell in a single thunderstorm on the 5th. The next largest amount was 2.12 inches at Wells, Nev. Of the long record stations, these and Potts are the only ones reporting an excess over their normal amounts.

This month was one of the driest on record. The rain fell for the most part in local showers, and the precipitation chart does not exhibit the usual evenness of distribution characteristic of May.

The table of precipitation shows 5 dates around which the greatest amount of precipitation fell, 1st, 4th, 15th, 20th, and 25th. The heaviest showers occurred during the fore part of the month. In Utah rain was badly needed during the month and at the close arid farm grain was suffering considerably. Streams were low and there was no probabliity of the customary June floods anywhere, though it was generally thought that the supply of irrigation water would be ample.

The section director of Wyoming says:

> The first 5 months of the year were unusually dry over southwestern Wyoming, the precipitation being deficient every month at all of the stations in Wyoming lying in District No. 10. At Evanston the total precipitation for the 5 months was only 3.40 inches, which is 3.63 inches below the normal for the period, and is the lowest precipitation on record at that station for that period of the year. The observer at Evanston reported the ground the driest ever known at the close of May. At Border the total precipitation for the first 5 months of the year was only 2.61 inches, which is 4.31 inches below the normal, and the spring was the driest on record. The observer at Border reported that crops were poor at the close of May and the ground very dry. The range was unusually poor, and good rains are needed to give range grass the usual spring growth.

NOTES.

The following notes are found in the Vernal Express:

Seventy-six thousand acres of land will presently be reclaimed in the famous Beaver district. This land will be put on the market by the Beaver Irrigation, Land and Power Company. The land is situated south and southeast of Milford, in Minersville Canyon.

There have been 202,000 acres of arid land taken up in the State of Utah, under section 6 of the enlarged Homestead Act of February 19, 1909, according to a report made by the United States Land Office in Salt Lake City to the General Land Office at Washington, D. C.

The Grand Valley Times says that the headgates of the Irrigated Lands Company are about ready to open. There are 20 miles of canals which will carry water from the Price River over 20,000 acres of land. It is expected that between 2,000 and 3,000 acres will be planted to fruit.

The level of Great Salt Lake registered at 7.0 feet on May 1, 7.1 on May 15, and 7.0 on the last day of May. The stage of 7.1 feet was the highest reading recorded since the establishment of the Weather Bureau gage in July, 1903, when the lake was quite low. In 1899 and 1900 the lake was about as high as at present. The lowest reading recorded since then was 1.1 foot below the zero of the gage in November, 1905.